

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 083719

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE, SY, PLO

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON SITUATION

1. WHILE IT IS DIFFICULT AT THIS JUNCTURE TO CALCULATE WHAT EFFECT ALLON'S APRIL 12 TELEVISION COMMENTS WILL HAVE, IT APPEARS THAT A SATISFACTORY STANDSTILL ARRANGEMENT IN SOUTH LEBANON IS DEVELOPING. WE WANT TO REINFORCE THIS TREND BY EXPLAINING TO EACH OF THE MAJOR PARTIES WHAT WE UNDERSTAND TO BE THE BASICALLY USEFUL POSITION OF THE OTHERS.

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2. FOR CHARGE DUNNIGAN: PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH EVRON TO COMMUNICATE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

--WE APPRECIATE ISRAEL'S READINESS TO COOPERATE IN STABILIZING THE SOUTH LEBANON SITUATION.

--WE RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM ASAD THAT HE WOULD DO HIS

BEST TO KEEP MATTERS FROM GETTING OUT OF CONTROL.

--(FYI: DO NOT REPEAT NOT IMPLY IN YOUR TALKS THAT THE U.S. WOULD ACCEPT WITHOUT QUESTION ALL THE POINTS MADE IN EVRON PRESENTATION REPORTED TEL AVIV 2577. END FYI)

3. FOR CHARGE PELLETREAU:

--PLEASE INFORM APPROPRIATE SYRIAN AUTHORITY THAT, IN RESPONSE TO OUR REPRESENTATIONS WITH THE ISRAELIS, THE ISRAELIS HAVE TOLD US THEY WILL COOPERATE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STANDSTILL CEASEFIRE IN SOUTH LEBANON. THE ISRAELIS HAVE TOLD US THEY WILL TRY TO PERSUADE THE CHRISTIAN FORCES TO DESIST FROM WAR-LIKE ACTIVITIES AND WILL URGE THEM TO COOPERATE WITH SARKIS AND GENERAL KHOURY.

--AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY MADE CLEAR, SUCH CHRISTIAN RIGHTIST LEADERS AS CHAMOUN ARE ALSO READY TO ACCEPT A STANDSTILL AND HAVE INDICATED THAT THE CHRISTIAN FORCES SHOULD TRY NO MORE MILITARY OFFENSES.

--THE U.S. APPRECIATES SYRIA'S EFFORTS TO KEEP THE SITUATION FROM GETTING OUT OF CONTROL.

4. FOR AMBASSADOR PARKER: PLEASE EXPLAIN TO BOUTROS OR SARKIS THE POINTS WE HAVE MADE IN TEL AVIV AND DAMASCUS ALONG THE ABOVE LINES. IN DOING SO, MAKE CLEAR WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO ENCOURAGE THE CHRISTIAN
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MILITIAS IN THE SOUTH TO ACCEPT THE AUTHORITY OF SARKIS. AT YOUR DISCRETION, YOU MAY CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE CHAMOUN OR OTHER CHRISTIAN RIGHTIST LEADERS TO COOPERATE FULLY IN THE STANDSTILL ARRANGEMENT.
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